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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/010,087	12/03/2001	Greer Marechal Murphy JR.	2001.682 US/PD	5379
31846	7590	11/25/2003	EXAMINER	
INTERVET INC 405 STATE STREET PO BOX 318 MILLSBORO, DE 19966			TRAVERS, RUSSELL S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1617	

DATE MAILED: 11/25/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/010,087

Applicant(s)

Murphy et al

Examiner

R.S. Travers J.D., Ph.D.

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1617



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claims 1-10 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

I. Claims 1-8, drawn to a method for treating major depression by assaying for the presence of apolipoprotein E4 (ApoE4) and adapting a therapeutic regimen based on the ApoE4 gene and other factors.

II. Claims 9 and 10, drawn to a method for treating identifying individuals suffering from major depression for whom therapeutic regimens would be especially effective, by assaying for the presence of apolipoprotein E4 (ApoE4) and ascertaining the probability of therapeutic success based on the ApoE4 gene presence and other factors.

Claims contained in Groups I-II are directed to patentably unrelated therapeutic methods, and compositions employing a plurality of patentably distinct compound species. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a single disclosed compound species, employed to practice the claims of the invention group chosen. Additionally, Applicants are required to identify those claims directed to this therapeutic method, employing the single compound species, even though this requirement is traversed.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable

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over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of the other invention.


The above delineated inventions differ as unrelated therapeutic methods; and are independent and patentably distinct each from the other. The grouped inventions patentably distinct, a reference which would anticipate, or make obvious, the inventions of groups I-II would not necessarily obviate or anticipate the inventions in the other group. Examiner must consider the burden posed by examining additional inventions; in view of the numerous distinct searches, and separate independent considerations, required for distinct inventions, such burden is present in the instant case. The searches are not co-inclusive as indicated by the diverse nature of the subject matter, thus, would represent an undue burden on Examiner. One skilled in the art would readily practice the invention of one of the above groups without infringing and or practicing the invention of another group. The subject matter is unique and has acquired a separate status in the art and is fully capable of supporting separate patents. For the foregoing reasons restriction is proper for examination purposes.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of the claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.48 (b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor if at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be

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accompanied by a diligently filed petition under 37 C.F.R. 1.48 (b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. 1.17 (h).

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Russell Travers at telephone number (703) 308-4603.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RTS', enclosed within a circular scribble.

**Russell Travers J.D., Ph.D.**  
**Primary Examiner**  
**Art Unit 1617**